MINUTES

OF THE SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE

New River Baptist Association,

HELD AT PILGRIM'S REST

MEETING-HOUSE,

Fayette County, Ala.,

Commencing Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in September,

1872.

FAYETTE C. H., ALA.
PRINTED AT THE "WATCHMAN" JOB OFFICE.

MINUTES.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7th, 1872.

The nominee to preach the Introductory Sermon not being present, the alternate, Eld. J. E. Bell, attempted to fill the time, and took, or read as a foundation for a discourse, the 15th v. of 3d chap. 1st Tim :

"But if I tarry long that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillow and ground of the truth."

When about ready to enter upon the discussion of the subject, health and strength failed, and he gave way, and that hour's service closed with prayer,

2. After a short recess, the Delegates assembled in the meeting house, and the Association was called to order by Eld. B. V. Shirley, Moderator. Sung a hymn and bowed in prayer; led by Eld. B. V. Shirley.

3. Called for the letters from the churches, which were presented, read and the names of the delegates enrolled, as follows :

Shady Grove—W. A. D. Roberts, Ira Griffin and Willis Davis.
Mt. Pleasant—Samuel Appling, D. G. Kirkland and M. Ingram.
Shepherd—Eld. N. J. Dyer, G. W. Gravlee and G. J. Collins.
Chapel Hill—Joel Ashcraft, W. Holliman and I. N. Ashcraft.
Pilgrim's Rest—A. T. Rushing, F. M. Yerby and E. D. Rushing.
New Bethel—Jas. Freeman and A. Y. Johnson.
Fayetteville—Elds. J. C. Jones and J. E. Bell, and bro. H. M. Bell.
Philadelphia—Eld. J.B. Ferguson, J.J.Deavours and W.H.Brashure.
Union—Eld. M. Morris, J. H. Wade and G. W. McDonald.*
Mt. Zion—Eld. E. T. Akin, W. W. Jones and P. J. Gilpin.
Mt. Olive—Eld. B. V. Shirley, M. R. Barnett and W. B. Shirley.
Mt. Joy—G. S. Harris,* G. W. Harris* M. Shirey.
Hopewell—J. R. Tucker,* M. E. Chambliss and D. R. Tucker.
Rocky Mount—Levingston Bobo, Thos. Stillman and G.W. Howton.
Harmony Grove—Eld. M. C. Owings,* J. L. Magaha and J. M. Span.

(Absentees marked thus, *)

4. Proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Eld. B. V. Shirley, Moderator, H. M. Bell, Clerk, and J. E. Bell, Corresponding Secretary.

5. Gave an opportunity for the reception of new churches—none offered.

6. Appointed the following committees :

I. On Preaching : M. R. Barnett, D. G. Kirkland, Eld. J. C. Jones, A. T. Rushing and Ira Griffin.

II. On Arrangement: Eld. J. E. Bell, M. R. Barnett, Eld. J. C. Jones, H. M. Bell, W. B. Shirley; and upon motion the the Monerator was added.

III. Document: Eld. J. B. Ferguson, G. J. Collins and Eld. J. E. Bell.

IV. Finance : W. A. D. Roberts, W. B. Shirley and G. W. Gravlee.

V. Sabbath School: D. G. Kirkland, P. J. Gilpin and Eld E. T. Akin.

VI. Temperance: G. W. Gravlee, M. E. Chambliss and H. M. Bell.

VII. Nominations . J. H. Wade, M. R. Barnett and W. A. D. Roberts.

VIII. To examine Circular Letter: Eld. E. T. Akin, M. Ingram and Levingston Bobo.

7. Upon motion, agreed to open correspondence with the following Associations, by appointing as delegates—To Tuscaloosa Association; Elds. J. E. Bell, J. C. Jones, E. T. Akin, N. J. Dyer, and bro. P. J. Gilpin. North River: Ira Griffin, Eld. J. B. Ferguson, J. J. Deavours, Eld. J. E. Bell and G. S. Tucker. To Yellow Creek: Eld. N. J. Dyer, Eld. M. Morris, M. Shirey, G. W. Gravlee and D .G. Kirkland.

8. Called for reports from District meetings, which were received and are as follows:

Frrst District—To meet with Mt. Pleasant church, Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1873. Eld. W. L. Jones, to preach the introductory sermon, Eld. N. J. Dyer, alternate; on Saturday at 11 o'clock, Eld. B. V. Shirley, Eld. J. E. Bell, alternate; Sunday at 11 o'clock, Eld. E. T. Akin, Eld. J. C. Jones, alternate. Subject for discussion: "How far does the success of the Gospel depend upon the morals in the churches?" Discussion opened by Elds. B. V. Shirley and N. J. Dyer.

Second District—Appoint that the next session of the New River Association be held with Union church. Second District meeting to be held at Mt. Olive; commencing Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1873; Eld. E. T. Akin, to preach the intoductory sermon; Eld. M. C. Owings, alernate; Eld. B. V. Shirley, to preach 11 o'clock, Sunday; Eld. J. E. Bell, alternate. Subject for discussion, "Who is he that walketh?" as spoken of in St. Luke, 11 ch., 24 v., and St. Matt., 12 ch., 43 v. Discussion opened by Elds. E. T. Akin and J. E. Bell.

9. Upon motion adjourned to meet half past 8 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by Eld. E. T. Akin.

SUNDAY.

Elder B. V. Shirley preached at 11 o'clock, Text, Dut. 32—11. Eld. J. C. Jones, after intermission, preached; text, He., 12—1. Both addressed a large congregation. Their efforts seemed equal to the demand, and we hope that good will result therefrom. CLERK.

MONDAY.

Met pursuant to adjournmet. Prayer by Eld. J. C. Jones.

1. Invited visiting brethren to seats, and the right hand of fellowship was extended, by the Moderator.

2. Called for report of committee on Arrangement; which was received

and adopted, and committee discharged, and is as follows: Read Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

CALLED FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

I. On Documents. II. On Sunday Schools. III. On Temperance. IV. On Nominations. V. Of Treasurer. VI. Appoint a Treasurer. VII. On Finance. VIII. Miscellaneous Business.

3. In conformity to the order of business as suggested by committee on arrangements, Eld. J. E. Bell was directed to, and did read Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

4. Received and adopted report of committee on Documents, which is as follows:

We your committee on Documents, beg leave to report: Having carefully examined all the Documents placed in our hands, find a request from Shepherd church, that this body change the time of her annual meeting to some time in October; and we suggest that the session embrace the 3d Sabbath. We also suggest, that the queries and arrangements for discussion in the next sessions of the District meetings, be inserted in the minutes of the present session of this body. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. B. FERGUSON, Ch'n.

5. Received and adopted report of committee on Sabbath School, which is as follows:

We your committee upon Sabbath Schools, beg to report, that having nothing from the churches on the subject of Sabbath Schools, which we very much regret, when we learn from the word of God the responsibility that is resting upon us in regard to training our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We therefore recommend to the Pastors of churches, to preach a sermon to their respective churches, on the nature and object of Sabbath Schools; and to churches to establish Sabbath Schools at, or in their bounds wherever good can be effected; and we further recommend to each church, also, to establish a PRAYER MEETING in connection with the Sabbath School. All of which is respectfully submitted. D. G. KIRKLAND Ch'n.

6 Received and adopted report of committee on Temperance, which is as follows:

Temperance—Moderation. We feel that this trait may be commended to every individual, because it is a means of the promotion of the *health* of the body so much deired. But we wish to use or impress it upon the minds of christians for another and more important object; i. e. that they, as christians, may live a life worthy their calling, consistent with the great responsibility resting upon them as the light of the world, &c. Brethren, since we have espoused a cause which lays so great responsibilities upon us, and which requires frequent and great sacrifices, and since Temerance, and especially as regards the use of intoxicating liquors, is indispensible to a consistant influence for christians, may we not insist that we all have and exercise this grace? To prove that Temperance is important, notice that Paul when he made Felix tremble, reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come; and again, in the enumeration of the fruits of the spirit, against which there is no law, we find temperance mentioned. We say, search the Scriptures and be temperate according as you find enjoined and as to texts bearing upon the subject. We refer to the following: Gal. 5—23. 2d Peter 1—6. 1st Cor. 9—25. Titus 1—8 and 2—2.

7. Received and adopted report of committee on nominations as follows:

We your committee on nominations, beg leave to report, Eld. B. V. Shirley to preach the introductory sermon; Eld. J. B. Ferguson, alternate; Eld. E. T. Akin to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath; Eld. N. J. *Dyer*, alternate. Eld. E. T. Akin to write the Circular Letter.

J. H. WADE, Chairman.

8. Received and adopted report of Treasurer, which is as follows:

Received from the churches for minutes,		20 05
" " Associational purposes,		11 85
Paid for minutes,	20 05	
Clerk's fee,	10 00	
Leaving a balance on hand of		1 85

H. M. BELL, Treasurer.

9. Reappointed H. M. Bell, Treasurer.

10. Received and adopted report of committee on Finance, as follows:

We your committee on Finance, beg leave to report, rec'd from the churches, for minutes, $20 60
For Associational purposes, 11 95

Total $32 55

W. A. D. ROBERTS, Ch'n.

11. Colled for report of committee on Circular Letter, which was read and, after the reading of the Circular Letter, adopted as follows:

We your committee to examine the Circular Letter, beg leave to make the following report: That the Circular Letter, after reading, be adopted and spread on the minutes. Respectfully submitted.

E. T. AKIN, Ch'n.

12. By motion, agreed to open correspondence with Union Association, and delegated to represent us, Eld. N. J, Dyer and bro, I, N, Ashcraft,

13. Upon motion agreed to take recess for one hour.

14. Resumed business, and upon motion, it was ordered that the Clerk superintend, and have as many minutes printed as the minute fund will procure; act as distributing agent for both districts, and be allowed ten dollars for his services.

15. The following resolutions being offered were, by motion, unanimously adopted:

1st. Resolved, That hereafter, any Brother a member of any church of this Association, whose name may be found in the minute, being present at the session of of either of the sister Associations with whom we correspond, and presenting a minute containing this resolution; be and the same is hereby authorized to represent us.

2d. Resolved, That the thanks of this body be and are hereby tendered to Pilgrim's Rest church and vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality, to us during the present session.

16. Upon motion adjourned to meet at Union church, some twelve miles north-east of Fayette C. H., on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in October, 1873.

M. H. BELL, Clerk. B. V. SHIRLEY, Moderator.

The brethren sung a hymn and took the parting hand.

The following is the arrangement for preaching, by the committee, up to Monday evening: Saturday evening, Bro. Corbet, followed by W. *L.* Jones; at night, P. J. Gilpin, followed by G. W. Gravlee; Sunday night, Eld. E. T. Akin, followed by Eld. E. Howell; Monday ten o'clock, M. *M*orris, followed by N. J. Dyer; one o'clock, J. M. Chism.

The meeting continued until the following Sunday; and the result was: 16 accessions to the church, 15 by experience. May the Lord continue his blessings until all the churches in our bounds are abundantly revived and *many souls* savingly converted to the religon of Jesus.

CLERK.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

In compliance with previous appointment, the following is submitted, "On Church Discipline." From whom, the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth according to the effectual working in the measure of every part maketh increase of the body, unto the edifying of itself in love, Eph. 4—16. Christ being the Head and Law-giver of his church, has the right to say how it shall be governed, and in what spirit. None have a right to reject what he approves, or to approve what he rejects. He is the Bridegroom, and knows how to perfect his bride—the church; so as to present it to himself, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

He has instituted such measures as will unquestionably accomplish these ends. Let us ascertain what they are and observe them. A well disciplined army moves forward at the command of their General, and vanquish their enemies; but an army that is not well disciplined easily becomes a prey to the assaults of the enemy. Discipline is therefore as indespensible with the church, as it is with the army, or any other organization. The body is composed of several members. The union thus formed is fitly and appropriately perfected. The strength and government are sustained by the mutual support and contribution of each separate member. The active movements of each individual in the sphere alloted, is the divine method of building up and purifying the church. This building or edifying is cemented by love—made strong and durable by the mutual affection which each bears to all and all to each. The Discipline of a church consists in teaching, reclaiming and excommunicating. Great care should be observed in teaching young christians, how they should govern themselves, in conversation, conduct, dress, diet and drink.

1. But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment; *Mat.* 12—36. Our conversation should be such as becometh those professing godliness—not slanderers nor as busy bodies or tale-bearers; for "A soft answer turneth away wrath;" Rev. 15—1. And as ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also to them likewise; *Luke*, 6—31.—It is natural for us to desire kindness from others. Let each one therefore be as ready to bestow as receive, remembering that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20—35. The conduct of members of the church has a great influence upon the minds of those with whom they associate; therefore each individual member should

endeavor to follow the example of Christ: "In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest appearel, &c., 1. Tim. 2—9. From the foregoing quotation and 1. Peter, 3—3, we arrive at the conclusion that it was not expected of christians to become worshipers of fashion and extravagance, as many have done; for the dress of many, even of our ministers' wives and daughters resemble more the dress of an actress upon the stage, than the dress of those professing godliness. No christian should become glutinous or peculiar in diet; but should observe the teaching of Christ, that he may not become offensive to others. In the qualification of Ministers and Deacons it is required that they be not given to much wine. It is also necessary that the christians observe soberness; seeing that there is no promise of eternal life to the drunkard.

2. Reclaiming. When any one has been guilty of anything which is derogatory to his character as a christian, it is necessary that the church be governed by the instructions given by its great Head. In private offences we have the plain words of Jesus in the 18th chapter of Matthew; beginning with the 15th and concluding with the 17th verse. And we are of the opinion that if these instructions were observed in each case of private offence, but very few would be driven to the necessity of going to the church to make their aggrievances known. In public offences, private labor seems of great utility—notwithstanding such cases should be disposed of publicly. See Tim. 5—20. For the comfort of all, the prosperity of the church, let each individual member observe the words of Christ: If thou bringest thy gift to the altar and there rememberest that thy brother has aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother and then come and offer thy gift: Mat. 5—25, 24. Excommunication—Wherefore, if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut *them* off and cast *them* from thee: Mat. 18—8. There are circumstances under which a church must cut off a member from its fellowship. This ought never to be done until every divinely appointed method for reclaiming an offender has been exhausted. When a limb of the body is diseased, every known means for its recovery is sought; but notwithstanding the body becomes impared; and all remedies fail. The limb *must* be amputated or the whole body will perish. When amputation is necessary it is as much a duty, and should be performed as promptly as any other remedy. So of a church.—The power of faithful love should be brought to bear upon an erring member. Candid admonition as to the crime committed; the disgrace to the cause of righteousness; the danger of such a course to the evildoer; the manner in which the church will be compelled to dispose of such a case, and in short, whatever obligations the brotherhood impose, or love to Jesus, and to souls enjoin, should be performed, and when all have failed, the church must preserve the honor of her Head. The accused should have due notice of the charge preferred against him, and have the right of self-defence. When the church is convinced that neither labor nor forbearance is a virtue nor blessing to the wayward, let him then be cut off, and be withheld from the privilege

of the church; while the church should be engaged in prayer for his salvation. Will christians now begin to aid in teaching those who need instruction as to their duty? in seeking after those who have wandered from the fold? in caring for the sick and striving for their recovery? and when every effort for their recovery has failed, and also for their spiritual good, will you, then, jealously guard the purity of the church, by promptly bringing up and excluding those who refuse the admonitions of the good and turn away from the loving entreaty of their brethren, to walk in the council of the ungodly?

May God give us grace to be faithful to him, faithful to his church and faithful to each other.

J. B. FERGUSON.

Received of H. M. Bell, Clerk, twenty dollars and sixty cents for four hundred copies of these minutes.

R. ALLEN SMITH.

Statistics of the Churches.

Churches	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total in Fel.	Monthly Meetings	Contribution For Minutes		Contribution for Asso'l purposes		Names of Pastors with address.
1st District.													
Shady Grove	9	4	..	3	..	..	56	1	1	50	1	50	J. E. Bell, Fayette C. H., Ala.
Mt. Pleasant	..	3	..	8	7	..	52	2	1	60	1	00	J. E. Bell, " " "
Shepherd	..	..	..	..	6	..	50	1	1	90		85	N. J. Dyer, Newtonville, Alabama
Chapel Hill,	..	1	..	..	2	..	54	2	2	00		45	J. M. Chism, Cave Spring, Ala.
Pilgrim's Rest	..	1	..	..	..	..	72	4	1	75		65	J. C. Jones, Fayette C. H., Ala.
New Bethel	..	..	..	3	2	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Fayetteville	..	1	1	1	..	1	31	1	1	25	1	50	.....
Rocky Mount	..	..	..	2	..	..	26	2	1	50		50	N. J. Dyer, Newtonville, Ala.
2d District													
Philadelphia	1	6	..	..	..	..	16	4	1	00		50	J. B. Ferguson, Sheffield, Al.
Union	6	3	..	..	1	..	30	3	1	00	1	00	J. C. Jones, Fayette C. H., Ala.
Mt. Zion	16	4	..	..	1	..	56	4	1	50	1	00	E. T. Akin, " " "
Mt. Olive	6	19	..	1	..	..	73	4	2	00	1	50	B. V. Shirley, " " "
Mt. Joy	..	2	..	9	3	..	31	2	1	00		50	J. C. Jones' " " "
Hopewell	9	4	..	5	1	..	50	..	1	00		50	B. V. Shirley, " " "
Harmony Grove	1	8	..	2	1	..	53	1	1	60		50	M. C. Owings, " " "